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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06753.0502

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Toshiaki OKABE et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2833  
)  
Application No.: 10/099,996 ) Examiner: Truc T. NGUYEN  
)  
Filed: March 19, 2002 )  
)  
For: LEVER FITTING TYPE ) Confirmation No.: 5630  
CONNECTOR )

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified under § 1.17(p) and a certification as specified under § 1.97(e).

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from the German Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the April 23, 2004 mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

06/04/2004 CNGUYEN 00000014 10099996

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO 1449.

Regarding the non-English language documents, in lieu of a statement relevance, Applicants submit herewith a copy of an Office Action issued by the German Patent Office in a counterpart application on April 23, 2004, and an English language translation of the Office Action. Applicants believe that the Office Action sets forth the relevance of the non-English language documents.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.


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If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

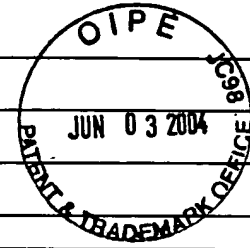
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 3, 2004

By:   
Michael W. Kim  
Reg. No. 51,880

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

|                  |                       |            |            |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Atty. Docket No. | 06753.0502            | Appln. No. | 10/099,996 |
| Applicant        | Toshiaki OKABE et al. |            |            |
| Filing Date      | March 19, 2002        | Group:     | 2833       |



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name   | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date<br>If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|
|                   | 6,183,282       | 02/02/2001 | Okabe  |       |           |                               |
|                   | 6,139,335       | 10/31/2000 | Kodama |       |           |                               |
|                   |                 |            |        |       |           |                               |
|                   |                 |            |        |       |           |                               |
|                   |                 |            |        |       |           |                               |
|                   |                 |            |        |       |           |                               |
|                   |                 |            |        |       |           |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Document Number  | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation<br>Yes or No |
|------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|--------------------------|
| DE 199 36 871 A1 | 03/30/2000       | Germany |       |           | No                       |
| DE 199 44 085 A1 | 08/24/2000       | Germany |       |           | No                       |
| EP 1 083 637 A1  | 03/14/2001       | EP      |       |           |                          |
|                  |                  |         |       |           |                          |
|                  |                  |         |       |           |                          |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |                                                                                                                       |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Copy of Office Action issued by the German Patent and Trademark Office on April 23, 2004.                             |
|  | English language translation of the Office Action issued by the German Patent and Trademark Office on April 23, 2004. |
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Examiner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Date Considered                                           |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                                                           |
| Form PTO 1449                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |